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## Saguaro National Park News Release

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### **SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK BRINGS VISITORS, MONEY AND JOBS TO SOUTHERN ARIZONA**

*Tucson, AZ* – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that more than 700,000 visitors in 2010 spent more than \$24.1 million in Saguaro National Park and in communities near the park. That spending supported more than 325 jobs in the area.

“Saguaro National Park brings both locals and visitors from afar to enjoy and learn more about one of the greatest icons of the American west---the Saguaro cactus. We are proud of the park’s contribution to the Tucson economy,” said park superintendent Darla Sidles.

Most of the spending and jobs are related to lodging, food, and beverage service (52 percent) followed by other retail (29 percent), including entertainment/amusements (10 percent), gas and local transportation (7 percent) and groceries (2 percent).

The figures are based on \$12 billion of direct spending by 281 million visitors in 394 national parks and nearby communities and are included in an annual, peer-reviewed, visitor spending analysis conducted by Dr. Daniel Stynes of Michigan State University for the National Park Service.

Across the U.S., local visitor spending added a total of \$31 billion to the national economy and supported more than 258,000 jobs, an increase of \$689 million and 11,500 jobs over 2009.

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM> and click on *Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation and Payroll, 2010*.

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state. For more on how the NPS is working within Arizona, go to [www.nps.gov/arizona](http://www.nps.gov/arizona).

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